

Recent Repetitive Failure to Wear a TLD

An experiment started at an NSLS beam line on a Friday afternoon. Most of the experimental team was present at start-up, but two members arrived Saturday morning. Both arriving users had active appointments and current training. However, one of the users had an expired visa and was not allowed on the site until her current visa and passport were brought to the BNL gate. She was eventually allowed access, but her BNL ID card was taken at the gate pending an update of her records at User Administration on Monday.

The first user cleared the gate readily and entered the experimental floor using her BNL ID badge. However, she did not get a TLD as required (she could have easily obtained a badge from the Control Room on week-ends). The second user arrived at the NSLS several hours later (after the delay at the gate) and gained access to the building and the floor when exiting users allowed her in (since she didn't have her BNL ID card). She also did not get a TLD. Later that day, both users were observed by operations coordinators without TLDs and were asked to go to the Control Room to obtain a dosimeter. After confirming that appointment and training for both users were current, the two users were issued TLDs, warned that dosimeters were required at all times on the floor, and allowed to continue their work.

The first user completed her part of the run Saturday night and left BNL. The second user was scheduled to participate in the run until Monday. On Sunday, she was observed by an operations coordinator to be without her TLD for a second time. After discussion, it was determined that she had removed the TLD from her clothing and put it on the desk where she was working. It was also noticed that she was wearing and using the ID card of the first user to gain access in and out of the building. Her privilege to work at the beam line was immediately revoked and she was asked to leave the building. Subsequent to the event, both users received formal warnings, and were required to re-take the NSLS training. In addition, user #2's research privileges were suspended for 3 months. The bigger issue was the non-compliance with the TLD requirement, but the use of another person's BNL ID card was also clearly inappropriate.

It is very unfortunate for everyone when capable people lose their research privileges because they don't remember to wear a simple TLD. In speaking with both users afterward, each stated that she was well aware of the need to wear a TLD, but at the moment of the experiment, she simply forgot to get a badge. In preparing for an experimental run there must be a dozen issues or more that are on the "to-do" list. Make sure that compliance with safety requirements is on that list as well.